

IN-SERVICE



Winter

Volume 103

February 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The beginning of the year always brings with it a flurry of activities. Not the kind associated with the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, but the kind associated with deep breaths and long stretches. We begin with resolutions – even though, like me, you have done away with making them – there is at the very least a deep reflection on the possibilities of the new year.

In addition to being a ham radio hobbyist, I also breed and fly Birmingham roller pigeons. January is the time I begin to think about possible pairings and matings that I think will produce the best youngsters with the greatest possibility to roll perfectly. I write band numbers on paper and think, “what if...” and rearrange them and do a great deal of thinking before I actually go look at the birds. Finally, I handle each pigeon and check their health and appearance. I determine how they have come through the winter months and once again, picture in my mind if a certain mating might produce the youngsters I want. Then, and only then, I begin the process of pairing my birds together for breeding.

While I might be stretching the illustration a bit, ASCRA goes through the same kind of process. We begin the year with the annual election to the board of directors. In another article in this issue of In Service are the results of this year’s election. The results confirm that the board will have a different makeup, which means that possibilities exist that something different will happen when they meet at the annual board meeting on April 26 in Independence. Fresh perspectives and new insights might be voiced as we meet to discuss the activities of our association. The future is full of possibilities.

While we don’t ever ask the question, “What would ASCRA look like if we were doing the things we really ought to be doing?” out loud, maybe we should. But the question is one we all should be asking – along with some others. If you could give voice to what ASCRA should be doing, what would our main purpose be? What would cause you personally to be more interested in and supportive of our goals and activities? These are not easy questions to answer. Each member of ASCRA would have different answers. The proverbial “Who are we?” keeps raising its head – and it always will. What will be our answer, for our time?

I encourage you to share your responses to these (and other, unspoken) questions. It is clear ASCRA is not living up to our potential. A low percentage of our members vote in the elections or donate to the costs of its program and activities. If I never thought and planned my pigeon breeding, but just left the birds to breed on their own, do you know what would happen? They would breed! But the results would not provide the best outcome. Planning, and thinking and being hands-on, increases the chances for success. I for one want to see ASCRA succeed in our mission. Perhaps you have just the idea to help us do that!

ASCRA QSO PARTY

An ASCRA On-The-Air QSO Party will be held from 0000 UTC Sunday, April 6 (1900 CDT Saturday, April 5) to 0500 UTC Monday, April 7 (0000 CDT) to commemorate ASCRA’s 34th anniversary, and the organization of the Restoration Movement. Our purpose on the air is to contact and get to know as many ASCRA Stations as possible via truly conversational QSOs. The event is listed as a "Special Event" under "Operating Activities" on the ARRL website, www.arrl.org. A participation certificate will be available in return for a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope. We plan to publish a list of all participating stations and accounts of all the contacts reported. Be sure to share your tales of particularly interesting conversations.

KC area member stations interested in operating from the WØSHQ club station at the auditorium should contact ASCRA Secretary, Doug Shaw, wa0emx@arrl.net, who will organize an operating schedule for using both the WØSHQ and WØC Special Event call signs. We may soon have two operating positions at WØSHQ, one for 20M and one for 80-40M, if installation plans can be completed in time. If WØSHQ is not operational by April 6th, Robin may authorize the use of the both the WØSHQ and WØC signs by volunteers from their home stations for specifically assigned periods during the event.

Participants should call CQ ASCRA QSO PARTY or CQ ASCRA. Suggested operating frequencies are near:

14.287 MHz	20M
7.233 MHz	40M
3.985 MHz	80M

Any other members who are interested may apply for Special Event call signs at the NCVEC website, www.ncvec.org, for roughly the same time period. WØC is assigned to ASCRA’s WØSHQ April 5-7, you may search using those dates to see what call signs are already assigned to that time period. At this writing all other 1x1 call signs are available. Be sure to indicate that your special event request is in connection with the ASCRA QSO Party.

We need a design for the certificate. Submit any suggested designs to Executive Director, Robin Cross, by either postal or E-mail (rhcross@swbell.net) no later than 07 April 2008. Send any questions about the QSO party to Robin and Doug. (DSEmx)

Doug Shaw wa0emx

ASCRA 2007 ELECTION RESULTS

At the direction of the Secretary, pursuant to the ASCRA Bylaws, an election committee met on 26 January 2008, to tabulate the ballots for the ASCRA Board of Directors election to the 2008-2009 directors class, commencing at the board meeting scheduled for April 26. All 16 ballots cast were received prior to the published deadline of Saturday, January 5, 2008. Of these, 15 were received by postal mail and one via E-mail. No write-in votes were cast. Four incumbent directors were re-elected, to be joined by two new members of the board (**).

The following directors, by accepting nomination, previously indicated their willingness to serve if elected:

David Gates, N5LCL, Newcastle, OK
Fred Troeh, NØELM, Maricopa, AZ
Terry Redding, W6LMJ, West Palm Beach, FL
Tom Thatcher, W2TFT, Shawano, WI
** Jim Fish, K7NCG, Woodinville, WA
** Larry Ragan, NØIX, Gladstone, MO

Continuing on the board are the 2007-2008 directors:

Barbara Redding, W5HKY, West Palm Beach, FL
Chuck Palmer, NØNN, Independence, MO (Treasurer)
Doug Shaw, WAØMX, Raytown, MO (Secretary)
Ernie Miles, WB2UJL, Durham, NC
Michael Hahn, KGØXU, Independence, MO (President)
Robin Cross, WØFEN, Kansas City, MO (Executive Director)

Two retiring directors declined nomination. The committee thanks Muirl Robinson, W8QK, for his many years of service on the board. The committee also wishes to thank Mike Oiler, K8QA, for his service as a board member these past two years.

We gratefully thank those who included generous donations totaling \$285 with their ballots.

Respectfully submitted,
2008 ASCRA Directors Election Committee:

Bill Shaw, KBØDD, Independence, MO
Doug Shaw, WAØEMX, ASCRA Secretary

ASCRA DONATIONS INCOME DOWN

Some members generously donated \$285 during the annual election of directors, including one amazing donation from Mark Riley M5BOP who managed to find and send a \$20 bill all the way from the UK. However, this amount is down 53% from last year. Because ASCRA has no dues to provide for its operating, newsletter, and special project expenses it is especially important that donations be sufficient to provide the income required to successfully accomplish our service goals. Please consider ASCRA in your tax deductible donations planning for this quarter and throughout the year. [DSemx]

73, Doug waøemx

EQUIPPING A NEW TRAILER FOR RADIO

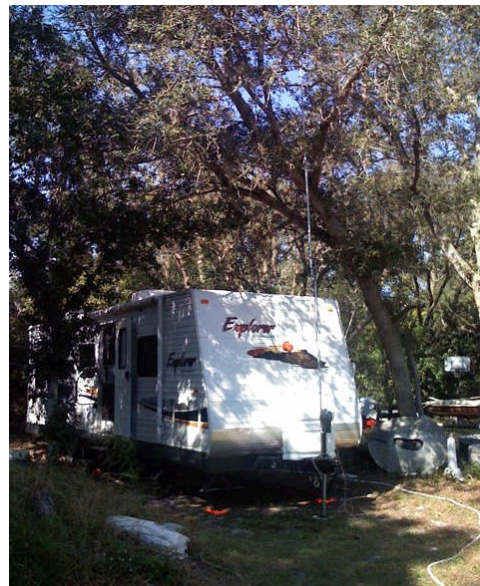
It has taken me nearly six months to get HF in the new trailer. When I started the summer vacation I had HF, VHF, and UHF in a Fleetwood trailer using a FT-857D, and a TM-D700. The trailer was wired for a 600 watt amplifier, and though I had one, I decided I didn't want to pack that much additional weight. But the wiring was there, embedded in the walls or run under the floor through PVC pipe. It had two deep cycle batteries - and was literally a joy to operate from.

On the first leg of the trip the trailer slide-out failed and I had to remove all of the radios and wiring in order to trade the trailer for a replacement. The replacement was not acquired until Amarillo, Texas some 1,800 miles later. On the way to Amarillo we struck a barn owl with the tow vehicle's antenna and so literally did most of the trip limping along with compromise antenna and radio solutions.

After Amarillo, with the new Explorer trailer, being on vacation with one daughter and two grandsons, Barbara and I never had much of a chance to redo the radios. So last month in Deland, I started the process. The shots below show the HF vertical. There is also a through-the-glass VHF/UHF antenna on the side of the trailer, through a window--the same window that I slip coax through when we set up to operate from the trailer.

The HF antenna has a temporary solution for mounting the mast and the vertical. I will eventually have a better set of brackets fabricated and design a tilting mechanism so the antenna can be raised higher without my having to climb up on anything to manage the installation.

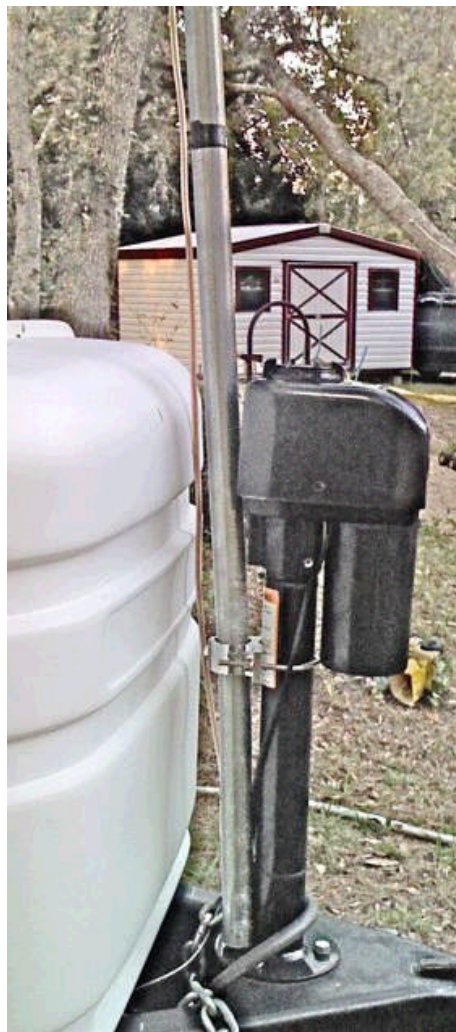
Terry Redding
W6LMJ



The new trailer sitting under oak trees in Deland, Florida. The vertical is in a poor location. It literally snakes up through the branches of the oak tree. On the Fleetwood trailer I had the radios out in the common area. I will do the same thing on this trailer, but for now I am simply setting an Icom 746pro on a TV shelf and I place the radio on the bed when we travel. It is very much a portable and temporary solution.



The trees are actually much higher than the antenna, which may explain my poor signal when I am operating from Deland and the trailer. The antenna is literally threaded through the foliage.

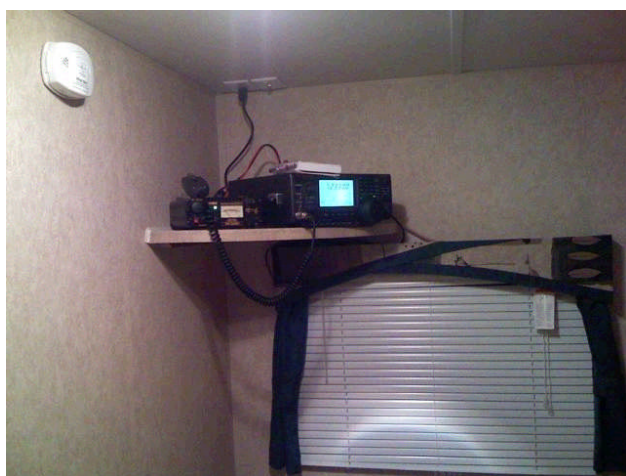


Detail view of the bracket.

Under the current installation, the base of the antenna is actually higher than the trailer. I did that in order to get the top of the antenna as much above the major tree limbs as possible. I found the brackets at the Fort Pierce Ham Fest. They were designed to hold an 18 foot base station VHF/UHF antenna to the top of a tower in above 80 mph winds. I figured that they would be strong enough to support my vertical off the tongue of the trailer at a much lower height. I should be using two brackets, but as you can see they are not actually designed right. They need to hold the mast farther from the trailer jack, in order to be parallel to the whole mechanism. As it is now, they press up against the motor housing. The structure in the background is our temporary storage building and workshop in Deland.

I hope you enjoyed the tour of the station in the trailer.

Terry W6LMJ



The Alinco power supply and IC-746Pro sitting on the TV shelf at the foot of the bed. The antenna feeds all pass through the adjacent window.

20-M and 40-M NET CHECK-INS

February 4, 2008

These are the checkins on the 20 M and 40 M since November 11, 2007.

Many have served as net control and provided these call signs. Several were copied incorrectly and the errors are an unsolved mystery. If you were omitted, sorry I goofed up.

40-M net

KDØBVN, John Block
WAØIBS, Andy Ferrar
KCØJQQ, Timothy Denton
NØTN, Jim Elliott
NØVTZ, Robert Fay

K1LPI, David Arnovitz

WA2LOT, Mark De Angelis
W2TFT, Tom Thatcher

N3FQ, Lawrence Fleming
KA3UTD, Terence Nemitz

WA4CYF, Daniel Smith
KP4GSC, Gaspar Camacho
KI4HMU, Kenneth Hezekiah
KF4QNT, Kevin Neely
W4SEF, Steven Fritts
N4VHG, Tom Arnold
KG4WVZ, Ron Storms

W5CSG, Chris Gillespie
N5IIT, Timothy Urban
KE5JQN, Richard Kenley
KD5RTE, Jonathan Butler
KC5YEU, Mark Fyie

KC6ILH, Gerald Fuge

KA7ARZ, Alver Rogers
WA7TBP, George Needham

N8AES, Brad Hocking
KC8DHA, Michael Dolin
KD8HGZ, Deward Stalnaker
N8LCD, Robert Moyer
W8QK, Muirl Robinson
KC8SO, Eric Jarrett
KC8VHA, Dick Parker

WA9DQM, Robert Welfel
K9FOV, Bruce Patrick

WØFEN, Robin Cross
KØJNW, Michael Thayer
KCØLEK, Abel King
KBØUSA, Stephen Berkheiser

KC2LXD, Rodney Pressley
WB2UJL, Ernie Miles

W3SOF, John Montalbano

KD4EAN, William Porter
KG4GTR, Van Vickery
KB4PQF, Alvin Coggins
KA4RUR, Frederick Carslick
N4UBC, Raymond Lloyd
KE4VXC, Chester Allen

KE5ICX, Thomas General
K5IJK, Daryle Arnold
W5LN, Dale Hamm
KC5SCK, Johathan Martin

W6LMJ, Terry Redding

K7NCG, Jim Fish

NX8B, John Roellig
KE8HE, Harold Stevens
KC8KDK, Ted Stevens
KC8LZB, William Willis
K8SAS, Steve Spisak
WA8UPB, Lyn Cryderman
KC8ZO, Walter Harding

N9FME, Greg Coady
KB9UVW, Annette Zigan

20-M net

NØAIX, Larry Ragan
WØDZX, Dave Atkins
WØFEN, Robin Cross
WAØIBS, Andy Ferrar
KCØLXB, Charles Millington
WØPD, Michael McConnell
KCØQID, Mike Wright
KCØTBA, Jason Blomquist
WØWGB, William Brown
WBØWTM, Robert Paul
NØWZH, Steven Hampton

K1DGW, David Wallace

WA2HIP, John Petrocelli
KC2RIV, Lewis Kusnitz
W2TFT, Tom Thatcher
K2VI, Anthony Costa

VK3AQN, Fred Naylor
VE3SCP, Scott Price

KU4AM, Herman Speece
KJ4BDR, Gary Martin
KF4DYN, Robert Wright
KI4HMU, Kennet Hezekiah
K4LSB, Earl Sweeney
WD4SCZ, Emil Dular
KE4VXC, Cheaster Allen

N5AUK, Ed Higganbotham
KC5ITA, Thomas Evans
N5LN, Oscar Nugent
KC5RVU, Paul Bisdorf
AF5TX, Robert Evans

WD6AJQ, John Mooney
W6LMJ, Terry Redding
W6RRD, Chester Wentworth
W6WWR, Avery Anderson

W7ABF, Dwayne Campbell
KE7QFB, Willard Hill
VA7OB, Obie Olson
W7PPX, Mordecai DuShey
KB7TBC, Al Todd

KD8DQX, Andrew St George
KC8KDK, Tec Stevens
KB8LGE, Lee McMurrin
K8QA, Mike Oiler
KC8VAJ, Ronnie Smith

KB9AVX, Scott Baker
KB9UVF, Thomas Johnston

KDØAMW, Richard Dalton
NØELM, Fred Troeh
KAØGFC, Charles Brady
KØJNW, Michael Thayer
WAØOFO, Thomas Smith
KAØG, Douglas Sebranek
KCØSKR, Delbert Sawyer
NØTQQ, Gary Skinner
KCØWPT, Deborah Rosen
KØWTV, John Troy

KB1PVW, Brian Kendrew

N2OUV, Joseph Yamond
KC2SDR, Michael Brown
WB2UJL, Ernie Miles

VA3RZ, Ray Else
W3SOF, John Montalbano

N4BBZ, Charles Davis
W4CYF, James Bishop
KG4EZJ, Ronnie Jones
KD4POJ, Dwayne Lipscomb
N4HSF, Robert Simons
N4UBC, Raymond Lloyd
K4ZZB, Gary Craft

KB5EAG, Terrence Redding Jr.
KB5JRV, Albert Spencer
W5LN, Carlos Hamm
WE5T, Robert Glosup
K5WDW, Waren White

KG6GKW, Mike Bearden
K6MLH, Michael Horner
KN6U, Ronald Atteberry
KD6ZXE, David Smith

KB7CHN, Vaughn Stone
K7NCG, Jim Fish
N7PHL, Phillip Rodriguez
NL7RY, Roger Sheley
K7WAH, Willard Hill

KE8HE, Harold Stevens
N8LCD, Robert Moy
KC8OZV, George Biundo
W8QK, Muirl Robinson

N9NCT, Greg Cheslock
KB9UVH, Annette Zigan

WØYO - RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD CHOP

When I attended Graceland from 1965 through 1968, I had the privilege of being Chief Operator (CHOP) for the Graceland Ham Club station, WØYO. According to various accounts the station began operation as 9YO in 1917. Paul Anway [WØGF, ex-WAØIKK, now SK (a Silent Key, or deceased operator)] told me tales of operating from the basement of the Ad Building (CHOP at age 16) as early as 1914 using a one kilowatt rotary spark transmitter feeding a huge rhombic antenna strung from 60 foot telephone poles erected on south campus. That must have been a sight to see! He probably kept the huggers out there warm on cool fall and winter nights, if not hopping to his smooth Morse Code cadence.

Through the years of our acquaintance Paul, retired counsel for the KC Power & Light Company, shared many tales of his tour of duty along the southern Arizona border monitoring signals between Germany and Mexico during WW1. He also kept me in touch with home and my steady girl and later fiancée via, sometimes nightly, phone patches back to Independence and Raytown, MO. This was long before cell phones and long distance calls were expensive for poor college students. Thus, Paul and Ham Radio were instrumental in getting that pretty little gal to come to Graceland after she graduated, eventually becoming my wife of 40 years next August. One wonders how many other students for whom I ran many phone patch calls during those years benefited as well as I did.

During my tenure with WØYO I ran a continuous Radiogram service for the campus. The message count often exceeded 500 per month, mostly outbound. These were handled on 75 meter SSB nets based in Iowa and Missouri and various Interstate Nets on 20 meters. If voice conditions were poor, Morse Code did the job.

The club had about 20 members including myself, Tony Crandall KØISA, Russ Gunn WAØUVW, Doris Kuhn, Bruce Davis, Dave Epperson, Trudy West, Ray Dickensheets, Brian Bailey, and many others licensed and unlicensed interested students. Trudy's dad, Jack W6VD, was an avid Morse Code operator and wrote for CQ and other Amateur Radio publications. In 1966 Tony traded for a 60 foot tower which we erected on top of the Science Hall. That tower still serves as home for the WØYO antenna farm. Tony also tells a tale on Bruce Davis when he tricked him into taking his General Class code test at the FCC office. (There were no VECs in those days.) The station then was located in a store room at the west end of the Science Hall and comprised a Heathkit SB-101 series separate transmitter and receiver and an SB-200 linear amplifier producing a healthy 1200 watt PEP signal to the antennas: a large 10-15-20 meter yagi, and variously an 80/40 meter inverted vee or windom (if memory serves). Ray and I eventually became in-laws when his son Marc married my youngest daughter, Amber, six years ago.

In addition to our Amateur Radio activities, we also operated a campus broadcast "radio" service known as KGRA. This was limited most of the time to the PA system in the student center since our attempts to implement a carrier current AM broadcast frequency system was thwarted by the many transformers in the AC network on campus. How we would have envied the KBUZ-FM operation in those days. After Brian Bailey somehow obtained an audio board from WTOP radio in Washington, DC, where he worked during the summers, we "broadcast" away basketball and some football games. Russ

Gunn served as KGRA program director and several others shared roles as sports announcers, I believe most often filled by Tony Crandall and Bruce Davis.

The club's faculty sponsor during this period was physics professor Ron Carter (who was licensed and station trustee for awhile). I'm told Ron got his PhD at Michigan State and ended up at the Arlington, Texas, campus of the University of Texas. After Ron left to pursue his doctorate I became the WØYO FCC Trustee *in absentia* from my home in Iowa City. Unfortunately, after Ron's departure a new (non Ham) physics professor decided to clean house and pitched our rare collection of antique transmitters and receivers which were enclosed in beautifully rendered wooden enclosures. Fortunately, he did not pitch the operational gear.

When my term as Trustee ended, the station license either passed to physics professor Chuck Emslie (SK) who had by that time also achieved his license, or one of several faculty sponsors since then who have faithfully cared for our truly historical Amateur Radio legacy embodied in WØYO. Computer Science professor Will Raiser WØMKC picked up the reins next, possibly around 1979. Will is reported to be in France now. (We must find out more about that development.) In 1989, math professor Larry Oiler NØBGG, assumed the role of advisor and trustee, and essentially revitalized the club on campus. The current faculty sponsor is the debonair math professor Steve Murdock NØZY. The Graceland Ham Club page on the ASCRA website, identifies Blake Grundman KCØVXR as the current president. In recent years, Bob Farnham and many other members of the Lamoni chapter of ASCRA also played a big role in advancing Ham Radio activity locally and on campus. The Lamoni EchoLink node uses WØYO-R as its ID, accessible via the 146.13/.73 MHz W□HQ repeater operated by the local ASCRA chapter, the Lamoni Amateur Radio Association (LARA). More current details can be found on the ASCRA website, www.ascra.org.



Steve Murdock
NØZY
Current faculty sponsor
and WØYO trustee

I hope to collect more recent history and photos about WØYO, one of the oldest continuously licensed, active call signs in the country for future articles. Any contributions, anecdotal or complete articles will be most welcome. (wa0emx@arrl.net)

Doug Shaw, WAØEMX
(wa0emx@arrl.net)

Apr 6-Apr 7, 0000Z-0500Z, Independence, MO. Association of Saints Church Radio Amateurs, WØC. ASCRA "QSO Party" - Founding of Community of Christ church in 1830 and ASCRA in 1973. 14.287, 7.233, or 3.985. Certificate. ASCRA/WØSHQ, PO Box 73, Independence, MO 64051. *This is not a contest. We invite all hams (and world-wide ASCRA members) to contact us. Include SASE for certificate of participation.* www.ASCRA.org

If you have any changes for the database (upgrades, new post office or e-mail addresses, phone numbers, etc.), please send them to ftroeh@iastate.edu or mail them to:

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